**Persuasive Essay**

**Thesis** statements include:  
1. Topic  
2. Your opinion  
3. Your reasons (preview of the rest of your essay)

Thesis statements must be **arguable or debatable**. They are opinions that are supported, but somebody else could have a different opinion with its own support.   
  
Explanation:  
[Thesis video explanation](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HePQWodWiQ%20)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HePQWodWiQ>

Example Thesis for my persuasive essay:

**Phantom Lake** is a hidden jewel that can be redeveloped to become a major tourist attraction in northern Manitoba. The area, though deteriorating due to lack of maintenance, is **already cleared and in existence**, so a new developer would not have to start from the beginning. The area is **large, with many natural assets** including a lake, rocks, forest, parking and camping space. In addition, Phantom Lake, though in Saskatchewan, is owned by a company in Manitoba and borders both provinces. Therefore, it is likely **eligible for grants and funding from both provinces**. So, despite being neglected over the last 30 years, with lots of money, and a great deal of volunteer elbow grease, Phantom Lake can again become what it once was, and more.

Harry Potter examples:  
[Harry Potter Thesis examples](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltk-hxcpc4g)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltk-hxcpc4g>

**A letter to the editor in the local paper is always somebody’s opinion and often a mini persuasive essay, where a local citizen is trying to persuade others to agree with his belief. Therefore, we are combining the persuasive essay with a letter to the editor.**

**Letter to the Editor format:**

***Dear Editor,***

***Introductory Paragraph providing opinion, and a preview of your reasons (thesis).***

***Second paragraph giving first reason for your opinion with support/proof/evidence.***

***Third paragraph giving second reason for your opinion with support/proof/evidence***

***Fourth paragraph giving third reason for your opinion with support/proof/evidence,***

***Closing paragraph summarizing your opinion and reasons and calling for action***

***Closing phrase such as “Respectfully,”***

***Signature***

**Note: Letters to the editor are not always this long. They may have just 3 paragraphs, introductory, detailed support, closing. But because we are combining it with a persuasive essay, you will be writing 5 paragraphs.**

**Note:** Each paragraph, after the first, needs to start with a **transition word**, such as “first”, “nevertheless”. It is followed by a topic sentence (your reason), at least 3 support/examples/expansion, and a closing sentence that makes it sound like you’re are finished with that reason and moving on.

**Assignment #1- Word Power p. 107-110**  
p. 108 Part A /7  
Part B #2 /1  
p. 110 Part E Read the entire page before filling in the blanks. Be careful because not all transitions are interchangeable. They have to make sense in their context. #1 /8 #2 /4

**Assignment #2** Persuasive essay/letter to editor assignment;

Chose a community, country or world issue about which you have a strong opinion. Write a persuasive letter to the editor, expressing your opinion to the Reminder. Follow instructions provided in Word Power and the ones written on the previous page. Be sure to use letter format, formal language, and write about something you truly care about.

1. Choose a topic. Narrow it down if you have to. (For example “Phantom Lake” is too broad, so I narrowed it to “Phantom Lake could be restored”.)  
2. Have an opinion on the topic.  
3. Think of 3 reasons for your opinion.  
4. Think of 3 examples, proof, or explanations for each of your 3 reasons.

5. Complete the persuasive essay outline- prewriting handout. or use this link and print it.  
[Persuasive Essay Map](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/persuasion_map/)  
<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/persuasion_map/>

**Persuasive essay ideas:**  
school uniforms  
chores at home  
high school students and jobs  
foreign travel  
cell phones  
competition/steroids  
Flin Flon/Creighton issues  
helmets  
music  
Here is site for some interesting topics:  
[Persuasive Essay Ideas](http://custom-writing.org/blog/writing-tips/31.html) <http://custom-writing.org/blog/writing-tips/31.html>   
  
**PERSUASIVE ESSAY/LETTER TO THE EDITOR RUBRIC- 5 PARAGRAPHS, WITH THESIS**

**/10 Persuasive Essay Map**

/1 Catchy Title

/1 indented each paragraph

/1 used a transition word at the beginning of each paragraph (except the first)

/3 conventions (spelling, capitals, punctuation)

**Introductory paragraph**

/4 Includes Thesis statement (topic, opinion, preview of 3 arguments)

/1 Includes another introductory sentence either before or after the thesis statement

**Expansion paragraphs**

/5 First argument (topic sentence, at least 3 supporting sentences, closing sentence)

/5 Second argument (topic sentence, at least 3 supporting sentences, closing sentence)

/5 Third argument (topic sentence, at least 3 supporting sentences, closing sentence)

**Conclusion paragraph**

/5 review thesis and 3 arguments, closing sentence, possibly a call to action

Total /47